Utes Lose Appeal On Royalties Suit

A decision by the U. S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals received Friday of last week affirms Judge A. Sherman Christensen, U. S. District Court for Utah, in dismissing a suit by 490 "mixed blood" Ute Indians who sought a higher portion of oil, gas and mineral royalties.

THE 1968 suit by Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah against the federal government sought to have conveyed to its individual members, prorata, a portion of the oil, gas and minerals underlying the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah.

The decision, written jointly, by Chief Judge David T. Lewis, Salt Lake City and Judged Oliver Seth, Santa Fe and Howard C. Bratten, Albuquerque, noted that under Public Law 83-671, the mixed-blood group has an undivided 27 per cent beneficial interest in the minerals while the full-blood group has the remainder. The legal title has remained with the U. S. Government.